

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201756

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR UK, US, TECH

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION AS A MEANS OF ASSISTING IN
CONTROLLING THE PROLIFERATION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT
TECHNOLOGY

1. THE DEPARTMENT, TOGETHER WITH ERDA DIVISION OF CLASSI-
FICATION,HAS BEEN WORKING TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE OF USING
CLASSIFICATION AS ONE METHOD OF ASSISTING IN CONTROLLING
DISSEMINATION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY. WE
HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ADVISED BY UK REPRESENTATIVES IN
WASHINGTON THAT THE UK HAS RECEIVED THIS IDEA FAVORABLY
AND IS INTERESTED IN FUTURE MORE FORMAL BILATERAL DIS-
CUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT.

2. DIRECT APPROACH TO UK NOW APPROPRIATE. THEREFORE,
PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO FOREIGN AND COMMON-
WEALTH OFFICE - ATTENTION MR. WILMHURST, WITH COPIES TO
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MESSRS. CHADWICK (UKAEA) AND SAXBE (MOD/DCA) QUOTE

CLASSIFICATION AS A MEANS OF ASSISTING IN CONTROLLING THE
PROLIFERATION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY

SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF PROCESS DEVELOPMENT, THERE HAS
BEEN SIGNIFICANT CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF PROLIFERA-

TION OF ISOTOPE SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY. THIS CONCERN
'AS MUTUALLY RECOGNIZED IN 1960 WITH THE QUADRIPARTITE
AGREEMENT. WHEREBY THE GROUP CONCURRED IN THE ASSESSMENT
OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS ON THE
PROLIFERATION PROBLEM AND THE DESIRABILITY OF ACHIEVING
UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES WITHIN THE
FOUR COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN GAS CENTRIFUGE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH INFORMAL THIS AGREEMENT HAS PROVEN
AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF CONTROLLING THE DISSEMINATION OF
GAS CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY.

THERE HAS BEEN AN INTENSIFYING WORLDWIDE INTEREST IN ISO-
TOPE SEPARATION METHODS. IN ADDITION TO OUR RESPECTIVE
COUNTRIES, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF NATIONS HAVE BECOME
INVOLVED IN RESEARCHING NOVEL METHODS OF ISOTOPE SEPARA-
TION, WITH THE RESULT THAT MANY NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE BEING
INVESTIGATED AND DEVELOPED (E.G., LASER AND AERODYNAMIC
METHODS). IN THE INTEREST OF CONTROLLING THE PROLIFERATION
OF SUCH TECHNOLOGY, WE PROPOSE TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH YOU
ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF THESE OTHER METHODS OF ISOTOPE
SEPARATION CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION.

WE BELIEVE AN EARLY MEETING TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF
EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUN-
TRIES ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF ISOTOPE SEPARATION TECH-
NOLOGY BEYOND THE GAS CENTRIFUGE WOULD BE VERY USEFUL. AS-
SUMING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN OUR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS,
WE WOULD HOPE TO INCLUDE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE QUADRI-
PARTITE GROUP IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROPOSAL TO
EXPAND THE SCOPE OF COOPERATION IN CLASSIFICATION BEYOND
GAS CENTRIFUGE.

AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN A SUBSTAN-
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TIAL EFFORT IN THE LASER ISOTOPE SEPARATION FIELD, AND TO
A LESSER EXTENT IN AERODYNAMIC WORK. IN THE INTEREST OF
OUR COMMON DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND IN KEEPING WITH OUR
RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE NPT, BOTH PROGRAMS ARE CARRIED
OUT LARGELY ON A CLASSIFIED BASIS. THESE CONSIDERATIONS,
TOGETHER WITH YOUR RESEARCH INTERESTS, PERSUADED US THAT
IT WOULD BE TO OUR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREE-
MENT FOR UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES

IN THESE AREAS.

FINALLY, IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NATIONS BECOMING INVOLVED IN ISOTOPE SEPARATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT TO SEEK THE COOPERATION OF OTHER NATIONS IN THE CLASSIFICATION OF ISOTOPE SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY BEYOND THE GAS CENTRIFUGE.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE WELL TO HOLD THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL BUT WITH POLICY MEMBERS PARTICIPATING. TO BE MOST PRODUCTIVE, THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD INVOLVE PERSONS FAMILIAR WITH BOTH THE TECHNICAL AND CLASSIFICATION ASPECTS OF ISOTOPE SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY. WE WOULD BE PLEASED EITHER TO RECEIVE A U.K. TEAM HERE FOR A MEETING OR TO SEND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO THE U.K. AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE. AS IN THE PAST, THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT INVOLVE THE EXCHANGE OF ANY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION OR TECHNOLOGY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
UNQUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT IS INTERESTED IN COMMENCING DIALOGUE AT EARLIEST MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE. THEREFORE, PLEASE PROVIDE U.K. REACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIRST MEETING DATE AND LOCATION. ROBINSON

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